



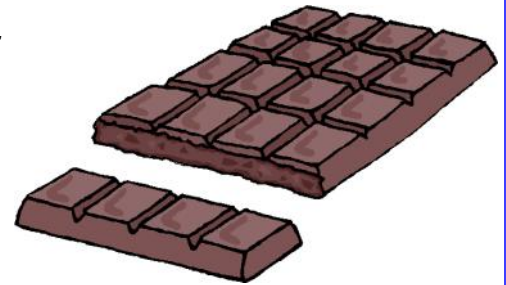
# Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00  
or by appointment**

## DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

Researched by Debbie Barany

*This phrase generally brings to mind a delightful dessert that all who love chocolate can't resist. However, on November 25, 1922 in Jericho, Wisconsin, that phrase was quite literal. The following are a few articles from the Chilton Times Journal about the murder of Mrs. Frank Schneider. Since murders are extremely rare in small town communities like those of Calumet County, you can imagine the chatter among the residence of the surrounding communities over such a horrible event.*



### CHILTON WIS., NOVEMBER 25, 1922 SUDDEN DEATH IN BROTHERTOWN

#### **Mrs. Frank Schneider Expired on Tuesday**

Shortly After Eating Candy Received in the Mail One of the saddest deaths in this vicinity for some time was that of Mrs. Frank Schneider, who passed away at her home in the town of Brothertown on Tuesday forenoon about 11:00 o'clock. On the Friday previous Mrs. Schneider gave birth to a son and was doing nicely until about twenty minutes previous to her death she was taken violently ill, expiring just as a physician, who was hastily summoned, arrived at the home. Theresa Friedel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Math. Friedel, was a native of Austria, where she was born April 27, 1890. In 1895 she came to this country with her parents who settled in the town of Brothertown, which town had since been her home. She was married at Jericho to Frank Schneider on June 23, 1907 and they located on a farm two miles northeast of Jericho. She was a true wife and mother, leaving nothing undone that might contribute to the welfare and happiness of her family. She was a good neighbor and was highly thought of by everyone who knew her. Her sudden and unexpected death is a sad blow not only to the family but to the entire community. The funeral was held on Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock from Holy Trinity church at Jericho of which she was a devout member and was largely attended. Rev. Fr. J. H. Huhn celebrated Requiem Mass and interment was made in Holy Trinity cemetery. She is survived by her husband and eight children, the oldest twelve years of age. She is also survived by her parents, two brothers, Joseph Friedel of Jericho, Michael Friedel of Racine, and three sisters, Mrs. Frank Schimasky of Racine, Mrs. John Goeser of Fond du Lac and Miss Anna Friedel of Brothertown.

In connection with the death of Mrs. Schneider the following facts have been given out which may have a bearing on the cause of the tragedy. Mrs. Schneider was in the best of spirits that morning and had enjoyed a visit with her mother, Mrs. Math. Friedel. When the mail arrived it brought a package addressed Mrs. Schneider and upon opening it she found a box of candy and a letter telling her that the one chocolate bar in the box was for her especially. The letter is said to have been signed by her sister, Mrs. John Goeser of Fond du Lac. Mrs. Schneider ate a portion of the chocolate bar and gave the remainder of it to her little daughter, who after tast-

ing it threw it aside, saying that it was sour. Mrs. Schneider's death followed quickly after partaking of the chocolate. Later in the day Mr. and Mrs. Goeser appeared at the Schneider home and denied all knowledge of the package or letter. Mr. Goeser was deeply concerned over the matter and immediately began to trace, if possible, who the sender of the package might be.

**CHILTON WIS., DECEMBER 2, 1922  
CONFESSES MURDER**

**DESTROYER OF MRS. FRANK SCHNEIDER'S LIFE IN CUSTODY OF SHERIFF.**

**PURCHASED POISON IN THIS CITY**

**Anna Lenz of the Town of Brothertown when Confronted by Evidence Admits she is Guilty.**

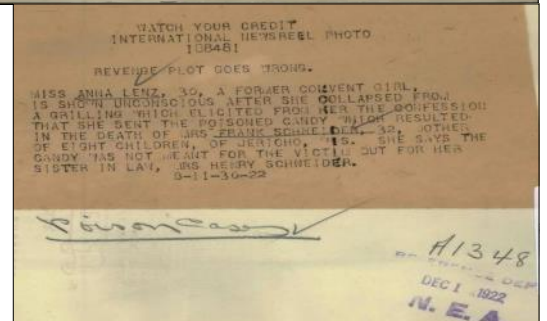
The sudden and tragic death of Mrs. Frank Schneider which occurred at her home on Tuesday of last week and which appeared in The Times of Saturday was the only topic of conversation on the street, in the business houses and homes of the county since it

became known that the deceased met her death at the hands of a woman. Mrs. Schneider, the victim, gave birth to a child on Nov. 17th and was doing so well that it was expected she would be able to leave her bed in a short time. Her sudden illness and death following the eating of candy received through mail, purporting to come from her sister, Mrs. John Goeser and the denial of Mrs. Goeser of sending the same caused an investigation. Staff reporters from Milwaukee and Fond du Lac papers soon arrived in the neighborhood of the tragedy and began investigating and no stone was left unturned until the person guilty of the crime was landed. At first it seemed hard to get a clue, but in casting about for information in



the neighborhood the name of Anna Lenz of the town of Brothertown was dropped and she was interviewed and denied all knowledge of the poisoning. However, sufficient evidence was run down to bring her to this city Monday. Breaking down after being grilled for six hours in the office of District Attorney H. F. Arps, she finally confessed to sending the poison package of candy to Mrs.

Frank Schneider which resulted in the latter's death on Tuesday, Nov. 21st. Miss Lenz was submitted to a questioning by the district attorney, Under Sheriff Groeschel and F. N. Niles, postal inspector of Fond du Lac and for six hours she denied everything. Even when confronted with the poison receipt upon which she had signed her name and by the clerk who sold her the poison, she still denied that she was the guilty party and it was only by the tireless efforts of the district attorney, Under Sheriff Groeschel and Mr. Niles that she finally broke down and told her story. According to her confession she purchased the poison at the McGrath Drug store in this city on the Saturday preceding the murder. She told the clerk she wanted to get some rat poison.



She wrapped the package up with the bar outside the other candy, addressed it to Mrs. Frank Schneider and wrote a letter calling Mrs. Schneider's attention to the bar, it being for her special benefit. She then took the package and walked down to the corner where she waited for H. A. Doolan, rural mail carrier on Route three and gave the package to him. Mr. Doolan brought the package back to the post office in this city and it was carried to the Schneider home on Tuesday by rural mail carrier Frank Broker. The girl claims that she made a mistake in the address and that the poisoned candy was meant for Mrs. Henry Schneider and not Mrs. Frank Schneider. She claimed that she had no ill feeling toward the deceased but that she wanted to "fix" Mrs. Henry Schneider for saying things about her. Mrs. Schneider, the murdered woman, died on Tuesday of last week after eating a portion of a bar of candy.



**H. F. Arps**

Dr. J. W. Goggins of this city, who was summoned by Mr. Schneider when his wife showed symptoms of illness diagnosed as one of poisoning immediately, but before he could get an antidote, Mrs. Schneider passed away. A nine-year-old daughter also ate part of the candy but fortunately spit it out on account of its peculiar taste, or she, too, might have been a victim. The case was reported to the local authorities on Friday and District Attorney Arps and Under Sheriff Groeschel immediately started an investigation.

Owing to the fact that the letter and package purported to have come from Mrs. John Goeser of Fond du Lac, a sister of the dead woman, Mrs. Goeser and her husband were called in by the district attorney and the former denied having sent the letter.

Then suspicion swung to the Lenz girl but the officers were handicapped by lack of evidence, the letter, box and candy being destroyed before the officers were called in. Miss Lenz worked at the Schneider home several years ago and on account of the attentions she paid to Mr. Schneider she was ordered by Mrs. Schneider to leave and not come back. Evidently this is the motive of the crime and it is thought by relatives of the deceased that the Lenz woman never intended to poison

Mrs. Henry Schneider as she has confessed, but deliberately set out to eliminate Mrs. Frank Schneider the woman who, she imagined, stood in her way. After searching for clues for a couple of days, Under Sheriff Groeschel uncovered the fact that Miss Lenz had been in Jericho on the Saturday before the murder and had purchased the candy at Mahlberg's, which was confirmed by the girl's confession. It was also discovered that she had been in this city on Saturday and had purchased an eighth of an ounce of strychnine at the McGrath drug store, to which facts she confessed after two hours of grilling. With these clues in hand, the district attorney brought the girl to this city, together with a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Schneider and Mrs. E. Buechel.

The murder is one of the most cold blooded in the history of Calumet county and it is a miracle that several of the children of Mrs. Schneider did not share the same fate.



The murderess is about 30 years of age and is said to have the mind of a child. However, she planned the crime with remarkable shrewdness and cunning and after the woman was dead, went over to the Schneider home and assisted in the work, showing no signs of remorse. It was thought she destroyed the letter and box containing the candy but she denied having done that.

She viewed her victim calmly and gave no evidence that she was the one responsible for the death. District Attorney Arps has ordered the body of the murdered woman exhumed and a chemical analysis will be made to fix the cause of death, so the state will have evidence if the girl refutes her story. A warrant was issued on Tuesday for her arrest on a charge of murder and she was brought before Justice of the Peace John P. Hume on Tuesday afternoon. The case was continued until today, Saturday, to await developments of the post mortem examination and autopsy. The offense being a capital crime, Miss Lenz was unable to obtain bail and is being held in the county jail. Dr. Daniel Hopkinson, pathologist of Milwaukee arrived here on Wednesday morning and conducted a post mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Schneider assisted by Drs. J. W. Goggins, E. T. Rathert and N. J. Knauf. He found that the death was not due to natural causes and there were traces of poison in the organs. The symptoms pointed to strychnine poisoning, but the exact nature of the poison cannot be determined until a chemical analysis is made.

A coroner's jury was convened on Wednesday afternoon to render a verdict on the cause of the death and fix the blame on the guilty parties. In connection with the poisoning which cost Mrs. Frank Schneider her life and left eight children motherless, The Times must give credit to Harry R. Zander of The Milwaukee Journal staff, who dug up the clue connecting Anna Lenz with the case. He also established the fact that she purchased strychnine at McGrath's drug store and the candy in which it was sent at John Mahlberg's store at Jericho. He laid these before district attorney Arps who took action.

**CHILTON WIS., DECEMBER 16, 1922  
RETURNS A VERDICT**

**CORONER'S INQUEST HELD SATURDAY IN DEATH OF MRS. THERESA SCHNEIDER.**

**FIND DEATH DUE TO POISONING**

Dr. Daniel Hopkinson's Report of Chemical Analysis Shows Traces of Strychnine in Stomach.

The coroner's inquest in the death of Mrs. Theresa Schneider, wife of Frank Schneider, of the town of Brothertown, was held on Saturday last and the jury returned a verdict of death through poisoning. The text of the jury's verdict is as follows: "That the said Theresa Schneider came to her death on the 21st day of November, 1922, in the town of Brothertown, in Calumet County, Wisconsin, as the

**Miss Anna Lenz died April 20, 1990 in Chippewa Falls, she was 97 years old.**

She was born September 25, 1892, the daughter of Raymond Lenz and Theresa Dominick Lenz. Her siblings were Joseph Lenz, Mathias Lenz and Frank Lenz.